

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to amendment filed on March 11, 2008 and telephone interview on April 22, 2008. Independent claims 1, 14, 21 and 30 have been amended. Claims 2-3, 9, 15-16, 19-20, 22, 28-29, 31, 34 and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4-8, 10-14, 17-18, 21, 23-27, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 38-44 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments regarding "generating a document in which the list of search results corresponding to each of at least two of the document categories are presented in sections by category based on the ranking of the at least of the document categories" with respect to claims 1, 4-8, 10-14, 17-18, 21, 23-27, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 38-44 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the claims has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Please amend and cancel the claims as below:

Claim 1.

A method comprising:

receiving a search query;

performing a search, in response to the search query, on a database including a plurality of document categories to obtain a list of search results corresponding to each of the document categories;

ranking the document categories relative to one another based on a content of documents in each of the lists of search results; and

generating a document in which the list of search results corresponding to each of at least two of the document categories are presented in sections by category based on the ranking of the at least of the document categories, where a first section of the generated document corresponding to a higher ranking one of the at least two of the document categories is more prominently presented within the generated document than a second section of the generated document corresponding to a lower ranking one of the at least two of the document categories, and the first section presents a textual snippet associated with respective ones of the listed search results corresponding to the higher ranking document category and the second section does not present a textual snippet associated with each of the listed search results corresponding to the lower ranking document category.

Claim 14.

A search engine implemented within a computer device, comprising:

a search component configured to use a search query from a user to search a database including a plurality of document categories and obtain a list of search results corresponding to each of the document categories;

a ranking component configured to rank the document categories relative to one another based on a comparison of the search query to contents of documents in the list of search results corresponding to each of the document categories; and

an interface generation component configured to generate a document in which the list of search results corresponding to each of the document categories is presented in sections by category based on the ranking of the document categories, where a first section of the generated document corresponding to a higher ranking one of the document categories is more prominently presented within the generated document than a second section of the generated document corresponding to a lower ranking one of the categories, and the first section presents a textual snippet associated with respective ones of the listed search results corresponding to the higher ranking document category and the second section does not present a textual snippet associated with each of the listed search results corresponding to the lower ranking document category.

Claim 21.

A system comprising:

means for receiving a search query from a user;

means for performing a search in response to the search query in each of a plurality of document categories to identify documents;

means for ranking the plurality of document categories relative to one another based on contents of the identified documents associated with each of the document categories; and

means for generating a results document in which lists of the identified documents associated with the plurality of document categories are presented in a plurality of separate

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sections by category, where a first section includes higher ranking ones of the document categories ~~[[are]]~~ and is more prominently placed in the results document than ~~[[are]]~~ is a second section including lower ranking ones of the document categories, and the first section presents a textual snippet associated with respective ones of the listed search results corresponding to the higher ranking document category and the second section does not present a textual snippet associated with each of the listed search results corresponding to the lower ranking document category.

Claim 30.

A computer-readable medium containing programming instructions for execution by a processor, the computer-readable medium comprising:

Instructions to search documents categorized into a plurality of document categories in response to a search query received from a user;

Instructions to rank the document categories corresponding to the documents based on contents of identified ones of the documents in each of the categories; and

Instructions to generate a results document in which lists of the identified documents corresponding to at least two of the document categories are presented in separate sections of the results document by category, where ~~[[the]]~~ a first section corresponding to a higher ranking one of the at least two of the document categories is more prominently placed in the results document than ~~[[the]]~~ a second section corresponding to a lower ranking one of the at least two of the document categories, and the first section presents a textual snippet associated with respective ones of the listed search results corresponding to the higher ranking document category and the

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second section does not present a textual snippet associated with each of the listed search results corresponding to the lower ranking document category.

Claim 34. (canceled)

Claim 37. (canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 4-8, 10-14, 17-18, 21, 23-27, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 38-44 are allowed over the art of record.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 1, 14, 21 and 30, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed provision "generating a document in which the list of search results corresponding to each of at least two of the document categories are presented in sections by category based on the ranking of the at least of the document categories, where a first section of the generated document corresponding to a higher ranking one of the at least two of the document categories is more prominently presented within the generated document than a second section of the generated document corresponding to a lower ranking one of the at least two of the document categories, and the first section presents a textual snippet associated with respective ones of the listed search results corresponding to the higher ranking document category and the second section does not present a textual snippet associated with each of the listed search results corresponding to the lower ranking document category" as claimed in conjunction with remaining claims provisions.

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5. The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

Comments

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Prior Art Made of Record

7. Kamangar et al. (US 2003/0046161 A1) disclose methods and apparatus for ordering advertisements based on performance information and price information.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Point of Contact

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HANH B. THAI whose telephone number is (571)272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur (7:00AM - 4:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hanh B Thai
Examiner
Art Unit 2163

April 24, 2008

/don wong/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2163